

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Amended claim 11 and 12, and new claims 25 -33 are pending. The Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 11 and 12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent format to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Claims 1-10 and 13 - 24 have been cancelled, not to avoid any reference but to expedite the prosecution of the present application. The Applicant reserves the right to file the cancelled claims in a continuing application. Applicants believe that the current amendment and new claims are supported by the disclosure in the specification and do not add any new matter to the application. Reconsideration of this Application and entry of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Election/Restrictions

Applicants acknowledge the statement in the Office Action regarding elections/restrictions made in response to a previous communication from the USPTO. Applicants further note that the claims previously withdrawn, have now been canceled.

35 U.S.C. §112 Rejection

Claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicants have cancelled claim 15, and thus respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Double Patenting

Claim 2 was rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 and 2 of U.S. Patent No. 7,473,274. Applicants have cancelled claim 2, and thus respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejection

Claims 1-10 and 13-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by references cited in the Office Action. Applicants have canceled all of the claims rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), and thus respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 11 and 12 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten to include all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have rewritten these claims and respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn.

New Claims

New claims 25-33 are being submitted with this response. The new claims depend from amended claim 11, and Applicants respectfully request that they be considered with this response.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant believes all the pending claims are in condition for allowance and should be passed to issue. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required under 37 C.F.R. 1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 01-2525. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would in any way expedite the prosecution of the application, please do not hesitate to call the undersigned at telephone (707) 543-5484.

Respectfully submitted,

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